

Thursday Morning, Feb. 14, 1867.

The Tariff—Mistake of the West.

The people of the West made a fatal mistake when they coalesced with the Republican party to keep the Southern Senators and members of Congress excluded from that body. The tariff bill before Congress will bear as heavily on the West as it does on the poor consumers of the South. It is a measure expressly framed, under the plea of protection to American manufactures, to enrich the Eastern spinners and manufacturing capitalists at the expense of the agricultural producers, artisans, mechanics, &c., who have to pay the iniquitous premium thus levied by unprincipled partisans. This "bill of abominations," as it is aptly styled by some of the Northern papers, is now being loudly denounced by the people of the North and West, and its denouncers embrace men of all parties.

We learn from the *New York Times*, of Friday, that the Chamber of Commerce of that city, at its meeting on the previous day, unanimously adopted a memorial to Congress against the bill. The memorial sets forth that while professing "to provide for increased revenue from imports," the bill will seriously injure the import trade and lessen the gold revenue of the Government at a time when its need of gold is greater than ever. The enactment of the new tariff, in the opinion of the merchants of New York, will, therefore, be to weaken the public credit. The injury to commerce, the mercantile marine, the farmers and mechanics, is also adverted to. Special emphasis upon the effect of exorbitant protection upon the interests protected, and the injustice of granting to manufacturers higher tariff rates simultaneously with the revision of the internal taxation in their favor, is also pointed out.

Such are the views of practical business men in the leading commercial metropolis of the country; and although the same body took the back track in relation to memorializing Congress against the tax on cotton, yet, in this matter, we must believe their vision is much clearer, and that they discover the difference of that legislation which compels the planter to pay tribute out of his impoverished fund, from that which threatens bankruptcy in trade and commerce, and general distress to almost every class in the community.

"The cohesive power of public plunder" is admirably illustrated in all the legislation of the party which now rules the country, and there is no practical observer of its course who must not come to the conclusion that, while they proposed, all along, to be only working to save the Union and punish "rebels," exacting from them pledges and guarantees for the perpetuation of that Union, they were only influenced by a lust for power, that they might the more easily drain from the exhausted resources of the country the greenbacks and gold, to swell their own coffers.

If the men of the West and the working men of the North do not see this, they are not entitled to much credit for political sagacity. The Western people ought to know by this time that we of the planting States of the South are their proper, if not natural, allies. No such bill, we verily believe, as this bill of abominations, could be passed by Congress, if the Southern Senators and Representatives had their seats in that body. As the *New Orleans Picayune* said, a few days ago, the men of the West now realize the effect of the aid they have so freely given in excluding the Southern representatives. To use a homely phrase, "it has come home to them," and they will, ere long, be convinced that a close union with the South is necessary for their best interests, and that their helplessness in tariff legislation is the accompaniment of Southern exclusion.

The telegraph informs us that "the Portuguese, by Senatorial action, offer the abolition of slavery in the Portuguese colonies." We do not know anything of the conditions, nor are they important; it is certain that the present crusade will sweep slavery from all civilized nations. Whether the nations will feel any better after the thing is done, is one of those problems mixed up with the uncertainties of the future.

A Word to Our Planters.

Let us not rake up the ashes of the dead past. It is gone, with its institution of labor, its time-honored usages, its prejudices and, we may add, its follies, its short-sightedness and its lack of sound judgment in many things pertaining to the management of that great interest which supports all others—the agricultural.

We have to start anew, and we might as well look the matter in the face and promptly adapt ourselves to the great change that has come over our institutions. It is only over our institutions, our habits and usages that this change has come, and it is worse than idle to mourn over the past, and lament that the former times were better than these. We say it is only in certain social and industrial arrangements and organizations that the change referred to has been effected. The conquering armies of the Union, whatever else they were able to do, could not affect our soil or climate—they are still left to us, and it only requires willing hands and active industry to avail ourselves of the benefits which both properly tender to the husbandman.

The cry that is coming up from our sister State of Alabama, where it is thought 40,000 of her people will be without the means of obtaining food, but through charitable efforts, together with the scarcity of provisions in our own and other Southern States, should deeply impress our planting friends with the absolute necessity of planting and raising sufficient provisions—bread and meat—to render them independent of foreign sources of supply, and to enable them to furnish their own people, neighbors and friends, with the means of sustaining life. In times of ordinary prosperity even, it is clearly the duty of the planter to be self-sustaining, while making his future crop; but how much more imperative is that duty upon him now, when the cry for bread is coming from thousands of his fellow-citizens.

The system of large cotton plantations is necessarily abandoned, there being no reliable labor to work them. It is, therefore, the duty of all engaged in cultivating the soil to use their diminished labor to the best advantage. Corn and other grains, and stock of all kinds, should be produced and raised the present year, for, if this course be not pursued, bad as the times are now, they will be ten-fold worse twelve months hence. The planters ought not to abandon entirely the cultivation of their former great staple; but every consideration now pressing upon the community drives them to the conclusion that they ought not to yield to it that supremacy it has hitherto held among their productions. If they attempt to pursue, as far as they can, their old system of raising cotton, and out of its proceeds expect to buy meat and bread, they will find, to their sorrow and suffering, that, in this respect, old things have passed away.

The season is here when arrangements are to be made, and we hope and trust that the course indicated above will be followed. And where land-owners, either from scarcity of labor or other causes, cannot cultivate all their land, let them invite any willing worker to occupy it, and there will be bread enough and to spare.

IMPORTANT, IF TRUE.—A special despatch to the *Savannah Republican*, dated Washington, February 10, says:

"There is hardly a shadow of doubt that the present State Governments in the South will be speedily set aside. The only debatable question now is whether those who voluntarily engaged in the war against the Federal Government shall be deprived of the right of suffrage, as well as the right of holding any office, Federal or State.

"Gen. Banks, who is now considered a conservative, made a very strong speech yesterday, in which he stated that it was yet possible to harmonize the legislative and executive branches of the Government, and, also, that none but loyal men should vote. Banks and Raymond are supposed to have an understanding with President Johnson, and speak by authority.

"From information received from the most reliable sources, it is evident that the Constitutional amendment is now deemed far from sufficient as a guarantee, and it is generally believed that a large army will soon re-occupy the States. This may appear a very hard destiny, but caudor compels us to say it is inevitable, and the Southern people may as well begin to realize the painful fact."

"Grand Army of the Republic."

It was intimated by telegraph, a few days since, that the *New York World* had made some developments relative to this new organization. The following is from the *World*, of Saturday, and shows that the machinery of this conspiracy has been effectually arranged:

Not long since, a new organization, called "The Grand Army of the Republic," was formed in every city and State in the Union. It is composed exclusively of veterans who served in the late war. The formation of this army made almost as little noise in the country as the fall of a snowflake. It was not designed that it should take a prominent place before the public till some great necessity for its services should arise. In addition to the main purpose of supporting the Government, its object was of a benevolent nature, and, by this means, it presented special attractions to the soldiers, till, in a short time, its ranks embraced over 500,000 men.

On Thursday, for the first time, the State of New York was divided into military districts by the Adjutant-General of the organization, as will appear from the following "general orders," published in the *Tribune* of the following day:

HEADQUARTERS DEPT. NEW YORK.
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.
A. G.'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, Feb. 6.
General Orders, No. 5:

1. The following named comrades are hereby detailed and announced as members of the provisional staff of this department, on duty at these headquarters: Major George T. Stevens, Aid-de-Camp and Assistant Inspector-General; Brevet-Lieutenant Francis W. Parsons, Aid-de-Camp. They will be respected accordingly, and are hereby authorized to establish and organize posts in localities not under the jurisdiction of District Commanders, announced in orders from these headquarters.

2. The following named comrades are hereby detailed and announced as temporary commanders of their respective districts, which are designated as follows: District of Manhattan, comprising the city and County of New York, with headquarters at the Bible House, Brevet Brig. Gen. Rush C. Hawkins; District of Oneida, comprising the County of the same name, with headquarters at Utica, Maj. David F. Ritchie. They will at once assume command, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

3. To prevent informality in the muster-in of recruits in this department, it is hereby announced, for the information of this command, that recruits will be mustered only in regularly constituted posts, and by District Commanders in the establishment of posts, except by the Grand Commander, an officer of his staff, or by special authority from these headquarters. The attention of officers is particularly called to articles 5, 9, 11 and 15 of the rules and regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the strict enforcement of its provisions especially enjoined. Staff officers will be enrolled as members of posts, and reported by the posts to which they belong as upon detached service.

By order of the Grand Commander.

Official: F. J. BRAMHALD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.
D. VAN SCHAIK, Aid-de-Camp.

In order to ascertain from an official source the avowed objects and character of the organization, one of the reporters called last evening at the office of the commander of the forces of the district of Manhattan, in the Bible House, and finding the apartment closed, proceeded to his house in Fifth Avenue, when the following dialogue ensued, which the reader will find bears out the assertions which form the preface of this article:

Reporter, (handing the Colonel a copy of the above "general orders")—"There is a report to the effect that the grand army of the republic, to which reference is made in these orders, has been raised for radical purposes, and that it is designed to be used against the President and his adherents, should any trouble result from his proposed impeachment.

Commander—"If Congress should impeach the President, I have no doubt as to which side the grand army of the republic will take.

Reporter—"Will you please tell me what are its objects, and when it was formed?"

Commander—"It had its origin some time since, in portions of the West where there is no militia. Its objects are of a benevolent character; it aims to assist all its members who may be in need.

Reporter—"How many men are there enrolled in the organization?"

Commander—"Over 500,000. All soldiers honorably discharged are admissible. We have Democrats and Republicans in our ranks; but all the leading officers are radicals, so you can imagine how the army would be wielded in case of any national necessity.

Reporter—"Then the army may be said to have a radical character in the main?"

Commander—"Yes; it is under radical officers, and if there should be any necessity for its services, I have no doubt they would be rendered for the purpose of supporting Congress, if it impeached the President.

Reporter—"Have arms or uniforms been furnished to the men?"

Commander—No.

Reporter—"Do they meet regularly?"
Commander—"Yes, but their meetings are secret; they meet in lodges, and only members are admitted; we are particular about our members; all who apply for admission are obliged to furnish papers showing their connection with the army, and an honorable discharge.

Such was the interview our reporter had with one of the military leaders of the organization, whose replies show that this new army may be used at any time at the beck of Congress, to sustain its policy by force, and to silence all opposition to the impeachment of the President. When the fact is realized that it is unnecessary to create "military departments" for a "benevolent" organization, the object of the army, in the present crisis of the country, will be found apparent.

The New Plan of Reconstruction.

The *National Intelligencer* says:

"We have full authority for stating that the plan of reconstruction which was published in the *Richmond Enquirer* and copied into the *Intelligencer* is an exact copy of the manuscript now at Raleigh. Thus it was published on Wednesday in the *Southern*, the able organ of the State administration in North Carolina."

In a leading article upon this same subject, the *Intelligencer* says:

"The plan which has now gone to the country originated with the most judicious men of the Carolinas, has been considered by men of the South having the confidence of that section, by distinguished statesmen and military chiefs here, and has been endorsed largely in circles of conservative Republicans of the North. It has been submitted to legislators at Richmond, and has been received in good spirit, though not with unqualified approval. The Legislature of North Carolina will probably have the honor of first acting upon a measure that, like the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, may be the initiation of what shall lead to great and glorious results. Much will depend, however, upon the spirit in which it will be received at the North. If patriotism shall dictate that party shall stand still, while a measure for a re-union of 'States and lands, and hearts and hands,' shall be the dominant question for consideration until settled in the interest of all the people of the country, then our dark day and perilous period is past. It is in the spirit with which the new plan is received, not its details—not in the prospect of its adoption as a whole—that we have hope. If it is generally received in a good spirit, and with kind feelings, all the rest will follow as the light the day."

The *New York Herald's* Washington correspondent, writing on Thursday, says:

From a quarter not to be doubted, I have information that the reported propositions about to emanate from the Southern States in reference to reconstruction are well founded. It is now well known in political circles that such propositions are under consideration, and that the Southern Legislatures now in session are acting in concert upon the matter. The report that they will first be submitted in form by the Legislature of North Carolina is doubtless unfounded. They will come in a general proposal from the whole South, and will be of such a nature as may be acceptable to the Republican party and the leaders in Congress. The greatest interest is evinced in the matter, and the anxiety exhibited by prominent Southern politicians shows conclusively that such a measure has been agreed upon. The Virginia Legislature now have the subject under consideration privately, and, in a few days, if intelligence reaches them from the South, it will be publicly discussed.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The *New York Herald*, of Saturday, has the following paragraph:

It is understood that the Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature has declared against the constitutional amendment. This is quite characteristic. That State and South Carolina always go arm-in-arm together against everything constitutional and in opposition to order. However, the amendment will be passed without Massachusetts, and will become part of the supreme law of the land. She will then have the satisfaction, at least, of knowing that she is consistent in being on the wrong side whenever the Union and prosperity of the country is concerned.

FOREIGN OPINION.—The *Courier des Etats Unis*, the French paper in New York, after giving a summary of Mr. Stevens' military bill, delivers the subjoined judgment of it. The opinion of an enlightened foreigner partakes somewhat of impartiality, and sounds like the voice of posterity:

"Such is the absurd legislation prepared by the chiefs of the radical party. It is useless to discuss it; it is enough to make public such impracticable measures, which breathe only the accents of wrath, of vengeance and passion, and which, it is hoped, will be speedily repudiated by the general reprobation."

They meet when a great calf is on ox-tail soup.—*Prentice*.

The Debate on Stevens' Bill.

The telegraph had induced us to believe that Banks, Raymond and other radicals had, on Friday last, opposed governing the Southern States by military rule. The full reports of the debate show that no such opposition was made. The speech of Raymond is pronounced a miserable failure. He said:

"He knew of no obstacle to the establishment of civil authority in the Southern States on such a basis as Congress deemed wise and just. That civil authority would be entitled, in case of resistance to it, to the aid of the army to execute its decrees."

This would be no better than unadulterated military rule. Again:

"He should prefer that Congress would appoint civil commissioners for each State—naming them in the bill, if it was not willing to trust their selection to the President—and let those commissioners organize a Government of some sort, and let the military support their decrees."

Surely Stevens is as good a friend to civil liberty as Raymond.

Mr. Banks explained away his apparent willingness to do justice to the South.

Mr. Banks.—In the remarks which I made, Mr. Speaker, I had no allusion to my negotiations with the President. The gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Stevens] knows more of his opinions than I do, and will yield to his policy much sooner than I shall. [Expressions of encouragement to Mr. Banks, and of satisfaction with the last remark.] I spoke in good faith to the House, asking for time to debate this question. My reason for it is based on the simple idea, which every member can understand, that the measures which we propose, and one of which is now before the House, depend for their efficacy on being enacted by two-thirds of the two Houses against the Executive branch of the Government. My belief is that we cannot carry on the Government of the United States in that way—that we must have laws in which the Executive will co-operate, in order to make those laws effective. If, after we, the representatives of the people, have agreed as to what laws are necessary to secure the peace of the country and to maintain the existence of the Government, and after the people have sustained us in those laws, the President refuses co-operation, it is our duty to the country to drop the question of reconstruction, and to proceed to the consideration of the position and purposes of the President himself. I repeat my expression of belief that we can, before this session closes, come to such conclusion as will compel the President of the United States to sustain us in our action, or as will justify us in adopting another course, if he refuses. I have no negotiations with the President, nor do I know his opinion; and in the vote which I shall give on this question, neither the gentleman from Pennsylvania nor any other man has a right to assume that I accept the President's policy in the slightest degree. I hope for a change of his position; and I think it is not impossible, and is worth trying for.

Since the above was selected, we have received the *New York Times*, of Saturday, which, speaking of the bill, says:

"The fatal objection to the bill is, however, that, while professing to establish military rule in the Southern States, it is intended to commit Congress to Mr. Stevens' Territorial theory, with all its consequences. It is, avowedly, framed as for conquered territory and a conquered people, having no organized Government, and no rights which the conqueror is bound to respect. The affirmation of this theory is not essential to the justification or the efficacy of the measure. For all practical purposes, the amended preamble proposed by Mr. Bingham would be as potent as the territorializing propositions with which Mr. Stevens prefaces his measure. Theory is irrelevant in a case of this nature, and in this case it obstructs the progress of otherwise useful provisions, and raises discussion on points which should be introduced as substantive propositions, not as mere side issues. The time to consider what the Southern States are, and what rights they are entitled to, will properly come when we hear from the Joint Committee on Reconstruction concerning the Constitutional amendment. That is not likely to be much before the 4th of March. And meanwhile, the task of organizing military authority to meet the urgent wants of the suffering Unionists of the South, is retarded by the members who are loudest in their demands for Congressional interposition."

A Washington letter says: Mr. Colfax, so far, has no opposition worth mentioning for the Speakership of the Fortieth Congress, and it is likely that an organization of the House will be effected immediately. Hon. James Brooks, of New York, who was ousted from his seat in the present Congress, by 5,000 majority, will probably again receive the compliment of a nomination from the Democratic side of the House.

Mrs. Elizabeth Buford and Mr. Samuel Chandler, old residents of Sumter, died last week.

Local Items.

OUR READING ROOM.—Our friends are invited to visit the *Phoenix* reading room, where they will find on file papers and periodicals from every section of the Union. The building is open day and night.

FIVE CENTS.—The price of single copies of the *Phoenix* is five cents, and purchasers are requested to pay no more for them—as they are furnished to the news-boys at a rate sufficiently low to warrant their being sold at that price.

IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—Attention is invited to the card of Mr. A. R. Colton, in another column. He keeps specimens of and is agent for nearly all the improved implements of agriculture. Call at his warehouse, near the Greenville Depot, and examine his stock.

An aged colored woman, named Phoebe Washington, nurse in the family of Capt. Thompson, of this city, died very suddenly Tuesday night. An inquest was held by Coroner Walker yesterday afternoon, and a post-mortem examination by Dr. Templeton, when the jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to her death from disease of the heart.

FLORIDA.—An intelligent freedman who went to Florida several months ago, to settle, has returned to Columbia, perfectly satisfied with his experience, and determined to stick to South Carolina to the last. He states that great inducements are held out, but the expectations of very few of the immigrants are realized. Numbers of others, he says, who went out, are desirous of returning, but have not the means of doing so.

IRREGULARITIES OF THE MAILS.—We have complaints from Edgefield, and elsewhere, that there is great irregularity in the reception of our paper and mails generally. It is a source of great annoyance to both subscribers and publishers in this irregularity, and we would respectfully call the attention of postmasters and others who have direction and control of the mails to the fact, that they may remedy the evil as far as practicable.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published this morning for the first time:

Jones & Ray.—Plantations to Rent.
Columbia Varieties.—Friday Evening.
A. R. Phillips.—Wines, Liquors, &c.
J. R. Colton.—Cotton Gins, &c.
J. Sulzbach.—House to Rent.
Edward Hill.—Landreth's Garden Seeds.
Fisher & Lawrence.—Coff-Pans.
Extra Communication Richland Lodge.
Thos. H. Wade.—Tax Notice.
Apply at this Office.—Farmer Wanted.

EFFECT OF CONGRESS ON THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNTRY.—The *Philadelphia American*, a Republican journal, speaking of the prostration of business, remarks:

"If the session of Congress were to end on the 4th of March, as usual, we should have an end of political excitement, and the uncertainty respecting tariffs, taxes and financial measures would terminate. But the meeting of the new Congress immediately is very likely to prevent trade from getting a fresh start with the opening of spring. We must candidly say, that while the nature of the emergency may justify the measure at this time, we do not think it will be found to work well as a general rule. So long as any Congress remains in session, no matter what political party may control it, schemes of all sorts will be hatched in it, or thrown into the arena from without, to create distraction in the public mind and affect the current of business. The legislation of the present session thus far has been safe and wise, and we do not fear that any mischief is likely to result from the remainder of the session, for in the main the majorities in both Houses pursue a careful course. But it is the uncertainty that is so ruinous to business. We have yet no indication as to what will be done in the way of relieving the people of a portion of those burdens of taxation that are now so much more felt than in the days of our prosperity. If the manufacturing industry of the country could be relieved of the five per cent. tax, the beneficial effects would be immediate and general, and the revenue thus parted with would be more than made up by the increased revenue from other sources."

SUING NOTES OF HAND.—A writer in the *Albany (Ga.) News* says:

Many sharp persons, in taking notes for old debts, are careful to have them payable to bearer instead of to order, and to make them over \$500. Why is this? A note for \$500, if payable to order, cannot be sued in the Circuit Court of the United States, unless the payer of the note was a non-resident or otherwise had the right to sue in that Court. But if the debt is over \$500, and is payable to A. B., or bearer, and it is transferred to a non-resident of this State, it can be sued in a Circuit Court of the United States. The purpose is to thus get their debtors before a jurisdiction where the remedy is more summary and the stay law of our State would not be in the way of selling the debtor's property.

At an election held on the 11th instant, in the town of Hamburg, S. C., the following Justices and Wardens were elected to serve the ensuing year: Justices—J. J. Kennedy, Esq. Wardens—Thomas Dugan, C. McDonald, George Damm, Levy Hill, S. E. Bowers and E. R. Cunningham.